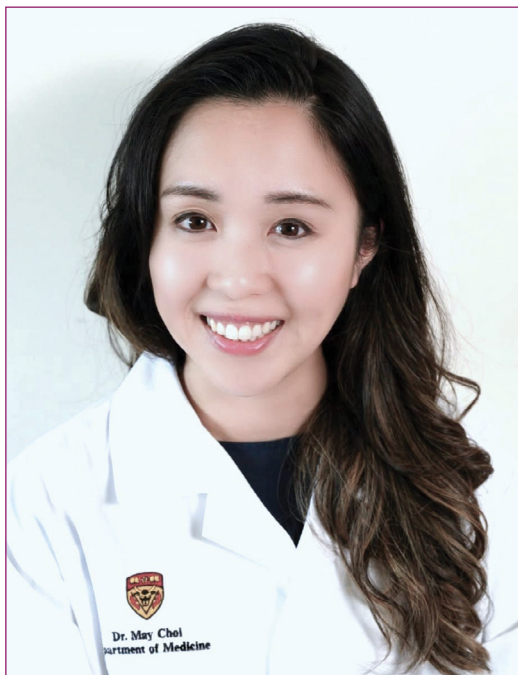


Rising Star: Dr. May Choi

Following in the footsteps of her late father, Dr. Vincent Choi, Dr. May Choi became a rheumatologist (University of Calgary, 2019) with an interest in studying systemic lupus erythematosus early on. She left Calgary in 2020 to complete a clinical and research lupus fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, Massachusetts) under the supervision of lupus expert, Dr. Karen Costenbader (Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School). While in Boston, she obtained a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Harvard University in 2021. When she returned to Calgary, she started on faculty at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, and became a Member of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health. She was promoted to Associate Professor three years later (July 2023).

Dr. Choi is also the Associate Director of MitogenDx Laboratory for novel autoantibody and biomarker testing for autoimmune diseases and the Associate Director of Research for the University of Calgary Lupus Centre of Excellence, which complements her research.

As an early career investigator, her research is focused on biomarker discovery and validation for prediction of clinical outcomes in autoimmune rheumatic diseases, and the prevention of autoimmune disease development and disease-related complications. Her studies have made use of large cohorts including the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) and the Nurses' Health Study (NHS). She leads a research laboratory and biobank for local, national, and international collaborators including the Canadian Inflammatory Myopathy Study (CIMS), Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (CSRG), and the Canadian Research Group of Rheumatology in Immuno-Oncology (CanRIO). She was funded by several career development awards including the prestigious Lupus Foundation of America Gary S. Gilkeson Career Development Award. She has received funding as a nominated principal investigator and co-investigator on several peer-reviewed grants including a Canadian Institutes of Health Research project grant in her



first year and a Canadian Foundation of Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Award in her second year as an early career investigator.

Dr. Choi would like to acknowledge Dr. Marvin Fritzler, Dr. Ann Clarke, and Dr. Karen Costenbader for their guidance and mentorship through the years. She would also like to recognize the support of her institution, her research team, and lab members for their hard work and dedication to the research program. Finally, she would like to thank her family (Chris, Vincent, Lisa, Wayne, Jen, and John) for always being there for her. Dr. Choi also has two young children, Sydney (2.5 years old) and Benjamin (1 year old) and they represent her proudest achievements yet!

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